



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/771,642	02/04/2004	Mark T. Brandl	61106.0046	3717
27890	7590	08/29/2006		
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP 1330 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER PHAM, MINH CHAU THI	
			ART UNIT 1724	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/771,642

Applicant(s)

BRANDL ET AL.

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/12/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 12-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Nepsund et al (5,858,044) or Poole (4,128,408), in view of Choi (6,165,244), and further in view of Jordan (3,747,303).

Nepsund et al disclose a supplemental air filter comprising a flexible cover (4) sized to snugly envelop the conventional annular filter (5), means for sealing the flexible cover (4) against opposite axial ends (10, 11) of the conventional annular filter (5) (see col. 4, line 55 through col. 5, line 8). Nepsund et al further disclose means for sealing comprising elastic rings at opposite axial ends and elastic rings exerting radially inward force against the opposite axial ends of the conventional annular filter (see col. 8, lines 32-36), and the layers of media held together via stitching (col. 7, line 49 through col. 8, line 4). Poole discloses a supplemental air filter comprising a flexible cover (14) sized to snugly envelop the conventional annular filter (12), means for sealing the flexible cover (14) against opposite axial ends (16, 18) of the conventional annular filter (12) (see col. 2, lines 12-22). Nepsund et al further disclose means for sealing comprising elastic rings (32, 34) at opposite axial ends and elastic rings exerting radially inward force against the opposite axial ends of the conventional annular filter (see col. 2, lines 23-33). Claims 12-24 differ from the disclosure of either Nepsund et al or Poole in that the cover including laminae of overlapping flexible material defining a plurality of pockets. Choi discloses a filter cover including laminae of overlapping flexible material defining a plurality of pockets (22) (see Figs 10-12), wherein the flow of gas passing through the filter pockets (see

Art Unit: 1724

airflow arrow through pocket (22) in Fig. 10). Jordan discloses a ring of activated carbon particles (52) for adsorbing and desorbing hydrocarbon vapor rising from a fuel reservoir in a carburetor of an internal combustion engine (col. 2, lines 44-46 and line 56 through col. 3, line 5). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a laminae cover with a plurality of pockets as taught by Choi filled of carbon particles as taught by Jordan in the flexible cover of either Nepsund et al or Poole since the cover with pockets would effectively store the activated carbon particles for insertion across the path of air through an air cleaner would effectively reduce the emission of hydrocarbon vapors from fuels to the ambient atmosphere.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed on June 12, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the primary references "Nepsund et al and Poole do not disclose a cover including laminae of overlapping flexible material defining a plurality of pockets to store carbon particles". The Examiner still maintains Nepsund et al and Poole as the primary references, and newly introduces Choi as the secondary reference to show: a filter cover including laminae of overlapping flexible material defining a plurality of pockets (22) (see Figs 10-12), wherein the flow of gas passes through the filter pockets (see airflow arrow through pocket (22) in Fig. 10), as claimed. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a laminae cover with a plurality of pockets as taught by Choi filled of carbon particles as taught by Jordan in the flexible cover of either Nepsund et al or Poole since the cover with pockets would effectively store the activated

carbon particles for insertion across the path of air through an air cleaner would effectively reduce the emission of hydrocarbon vapors from fuels to the ambient atmosphere.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, as discussed above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1724
August 8, 2006